



Pre-K Class

MISSION STATEMENT

First Pres Preschool & Pre-K provides an enriched Christian learning environment that encourages cognitive, social, and emotional development as children discover and explore the world around them. Our goal is to nurture a foundation that promotes independence and confidence as an introduction to lifelong learning.

CURRICULUM

Due to the individual developmental growth of children, not all five-year-old children are ready to make the transition to Kindergarten. The goal of our Pre-K program is to provide a nurturing environment filled with experiences designed to develop and encourage problem solving, social maturation, and emerging reading, math, and writing skills.

Our intention is to provide a nurturing classroom environment rich in literacy skills with a hands-on thematic approach to math and science. Children will be encouraged to be independent problem solvers with an emphasis on community with each other. Curriculum will be age appropriate and at a pace for all to feel successful and gain confidence.

DAILY PROGRAM

The Pre-K class is in session Monday through Thursday afternoons from 12:30pm-3:00pm and Friday mornings from 9:00am-11:30am.

Check-In Time

Children are responsible for taking care of their belongings, signing in for the day, checking out library books, and beginning journal writing.

Community Circle Time

Children share their journal entries and news, contribute to the class sharing bag, and lead the calendar and weather duties.

Shared Reading

This is a lively, noncompetitive atmosphere where children are engaged in reading-like behavior through new and familiar songs, poems, chants, music, and rhythmic activities.

Familiar books and new books are introduced during this time. Predictions are made by the children, and prior knowledge is shared. This time promotes a community of learners where everyone has something to contribute and learn.

from each other. The focus is always on the text and meaning of the story but allows for an opportunity to teach pre-literacy skills. Letter recognition and phonemic awareness are taught throughout shared reading time and throughout the day. Writing in front of children is modeled every day.

Whole Group Project

During this time, children are involved in thematic and unit-based projects that support the curriculum.

Choice Time

Free time where children can make choices at some of the following centers: Art, Building, Drama, Fine Motor, Listening, Math, and Writing.

Math/Science

Math and science are taught using a spiral approach where concepts are introduced and then continue to be reviewed and reinforced throughout the school year. Children will be involved in hands-on activities and experiments that support the thematic units being taught.

Playground/Gym

Outdoor play on approved playground equipment in a park-like enclosed setting or indoor play on approved equipment in our gymnasium.

OBJECTIVES

- Promote social skills such as respect, kindness, and empathy.
- Enhance self-esteem through individual accomplishment.
- Learn how to value another person's rights by teaching respect for others.
- Encourage cognitive development and reasoning skills.
- Encourage pre-literacy and early math skills.
- Strengthen small motor skills using scissors and independent projects.
- Develop an appropriate pattern of dependence and independence.
- Foster a sense of continuity between school and the outside world.
- Create a place of community, teamwork, and friendship.
- Explore creativity and self-expression.

GOALS

We strive to nurture growth in the following areas:

- Self-awareness
- Self-regulation
- Large motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination
- Social cooperation
- Personal independence
- Verbalizing thoughts into sentences

- Curiosity and awareness of the world
- Listening to and following directions
- Completing tasks
- Maintaining a positive self-image
- Accepting and managing responsibility
- Taking part in vocalization and rhythmical activities
- Experiencing original and creative self-expression
- Achieving self-discipline

STAFF

All teachers are college graduates; trained and experienced in Early Childhood Education. Our teachers have specialized instruction in various areas including Child Development, Reading, Special Education, and Elementary Education. The staff participates yearly in continuing education by attending early education workshops and seminars, observing in other early education programs and Kindergarten classrooms, and CPR/First Aid Certification.

ENROLLMENT

Enrollment for the next school year opens to current/alumni and church families in January. Open enrollment for the public begins in late January. Please email: preschool@firstpreswheaton.org with enrollment inquiries.

ADMISSION

Children entering the Pre-K program must be 5 years old by September 1st of the current school year or upon teacher recommendation.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Orientation for all preschool classes is held during the week of Labor Day. The preschool school year ends the week before Memorial Day. The preschool follows the Wheaton District 200 Academic calendar for holidays, in-service days, and snow days. We also observe Easter Monday each year and there is no preschool on this day.

TRANSPORTATION

Parents are responsible for transporting their child to and from school. In a designated loading area, teachers guide children as they enter and exit cars.

POLICY

The preschool is licensed by the Department of Children and Family Services of Illinois (DCFS). It is in compliance with health and safety standards established by DCFS and the Board of Health. Further policies are set by the Preschool Staff with the approval of the Session of First Presbyterian Church.

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS

First Pres Preschool observes Christian holidays, sings a prayer before snack time, and fosters the kindness and community of Christian living. Please reach out to Melissa Coyne if you would like more information on becoming a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Wheaton.

melissa coyne, director

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